

## The People's house in Przemysl as a centre for preserving the national identity of Ukrainians between 1900 and 1940

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### Abstract.

*The article analyses the role of the People's House in Przemysl as a centre for preserving the national identity of Ukrainians between 1900 and 1940. Using archival materials and contemporary press reports, the authors have examined the formation and activities of the People's House from 1900 until its liquidation in 1940, amidst the social and political events of the first half of the 20th century. **The article aims** to study the People's House development, strengthening of its position, specific activities, and its role as an influential factor in preserving Ukrainian identity between 1900 and 1940. **The research methodology** is based on the use of special historical (comparative-historical and chronological) and general scientific research methods (generalization, synthesis and analysis), which, in combination with the principles of historicism, polyfactoriality and objectivism, created the necessary conditions for objective analysis and coverage of the tasks set. **The scientific novelty** lies in the authors' attempt to form a comprehensive picture of the People's House place and significance in defending and protecting national identity and developing the community's cultural and spiritual values within a complex world of political, ethno-national, and confessional contradictions, political orientations, and cultural trends. **Conclusions.** The activities of the People's House in Przemysl contributed to the unification of Ukrainians around common national values, supported cultural heritage, ensured scientific development, and educated new generations in the spirit of patriotism. The examples provided in the article demonstrate that, even under challenging political and economic conditions, supporting education and science remained a top priority for the leadership of the People's House, thereby contributing to the preservation of national consciousness. The People's House in Przemysl served as a cultural and educational institution that brought together the city's public organisations and societies. It hosted their social and cultural activities, including discussions, lectures, reports, exhibitions, evening gatherings, theatrical performances, concerts (featuring local and invited soloists, choirs, and ensembles), dance balls, and various festive events. The memory of T. Shevchenko, I. Franko, M. Shashkevych, S. Petliura, and others was honoured there. It fostered a new generation of patriots and ideological activists who supported the Ukrainian identity. An analysis of the People's House meeting minutes and financial reports confirmed that this institution also functioned as an economic organisation, a cooperative enterprise that financially supported Ukrainian public organisations. Acting as a cultural and community centre, the People's House also performed important enlightening and sometimes even educational functions, fostering a sense of national unity among compatriots. In this magnificent building, the Ukrainian language, historical memory, traditions, and values were actively nurtured, which enabled the maintenance of ties with native culture and ensured the continuous formation of national consciousness.*

**Keywords:** cultural heritage, People's House, national identity, national memory, Przemysl, Ukrainians.

**Народний дім в Перемишлі як осередок збереження національної ідентичності українців в 1900-1940 рр.**

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**Анотація.**

Статтю присвячено аналізу ролі Народного дому в Перемишлі як осередку збереження національної ідентичності українців в 1900-1940 рр. Автори, на основі архівних матеріалів та тогочасної преси, розглядають процес утворення та діяльності Народного дому з 1900 року до його ліквідації в 1940 р. в контексті суспільно-політичних подій першої половини ХХ ст. **Метою статті** стало дослідження процесу становлення, зміцнення позицій, особливостей діяльності та ролі Народного дому, як впливового чинника збереження національної ідентичності українців в 1900-1940 рр. **Методологія дослідження** ґрунтується на використанні спеціальних історичних (порівняльно-історичного та хронологічного) і загальнонаукових методів дослідження (узагальнення, синтезу та аналізу), що у поєднанні з принципами історизму, поліфакторності та об'єктивізму, створило необхідні умови для об'єктивного аналізу та висвітлення поставлених завдань. **Наукова новизна** полягає в тому, що автори, спробували сформуванати цілісне уявлення про місце і значення Народного дому в обороні, захисті національної ідентичності та розвитку культурних і духовних цінностей громади в складному світі політичних, етнонаціональних, конфесійних суперечностей, політичних орієнтацій та культурологічних спрямувань. **Висновки.** Діяльність Народного дому в Перемишлі сприяла об'єднанню українців навколо спільних національних цінностей, підтримувала культурну спадщину, забезпечувала науковий розвиток та виховання нових поколінь у дусі патріотизму. Наведені в статті приклади, показують, що навіть у складних політичних та економічних умовах, підтримка освіти та науки залишались важливими пріоритетами для керівництва Народного дому, сприяючи збереженню національної свідомості українців. Народний дім в Перемишлі був культурно-освітньою установою, що охоплювала громадські організації й товариства міста, які вели тут свою суспільну та культурно-мистецьку діяльність у формі організації бесід, лекцій, доповідей, виставок, вечорниць, театральних вистав, концертів з участю місцевих і запрошених солістів, хорів та ансамблів, танцювальних балів та різних урочистих заходів. Тут вшановувалась пам'ять Т. Шевченка, І. Франка, М. Шашкевича, С. Петлюри та ін. Саме це виховувало нове покоління патріотів та ідейних діячів, що підтримувало національну ідентичність українців. Аналіз протоколів засідань Народного дому, його фінансова звітність підтвердили, що ця установа стала також господарською організацією, кооперативним підприємством, яке фінансово підтримувало українські громадські організації. Народний дім, виконуючи роль культурно-громадського центру, водночас виконував важливі просвітницькі, а інколи й виховні функції, формуючи у співвітчизників відчуття національної єдності. В стінах цієї величній будівлі, активно плекалась українська мова, історична пам'ять, традиції та цінності, що дало змогу підтримувати зв'язок із рідною культурою і забезпечувати безперервне формування національної свідомості.

**Ключові слова:** культурна спадщина, Народний дім, національна ідентичність, національна пам'ять, Перемишль, українці.

**The Problem Statement.** In difficult times of wars and occupations, it is culture that preserves the identity of a people targeted for oppression. In previous centuries, when Ukrainians were still fighting for their statehood, various cultural associations served as places where national identity was maintained. The so called People's Homes became centers for preserving Ukrainian culture, language, and traditions. The preservation of national memory was the main goal of the Ukrainian intelligentsia of that time. Therefore, the construction of a network of People's Homes contributed to the development of national-patriotic and, ultimately, liberation ideas.

Przemyśl has always been a western bastion of Ukrainian identity and played a significant role in the spiritual, cultural and political life of the Ukrainian people during various stages of their history. At the beginning of the 20th century, the city on the San River became the second center in Galicia after Lviv – an important historical and cultural centre on the border between Ukrainian and Polish cultures. In the first half of the 20th century, Przemyśl experienced a complex and turbulent history, intertwined with political and territorial changes. It was in these challenging historical circumstances that the People's Home emerged – a cultural and educational institution that brought together public organizations and associations in the city, which conducted their social, cultural and artistic activities there in the form of discussions, lectures, reports, exhibitions, evening gatherings, theatrical performances, concerts with the participation of local and invited soloists, choirs and ensembles, dance balls, and various ceremonial events. This is what fostered a new generation of patriots and ideologically driven activists who supported the national identity of Ukrainians. According to its founders, the People's Home was meant to become «a Temple of the Resurrection of Rus'-Ukraine, the hearth of its new life, the fortress of its young will, the sanctuary of its immortal word and song, so that all the mists and darkness of anti-national forces would be shattered by the powerful cries of its fighters, the imperishable beauty of her word, the enchanting sounds of its song –

and that the sun of national truth would shine and, with its strength, awaken, strengthen, and inspire every future generation of our Mother Rus'-Ukraine to new feats, sacrifices, and dedication»<sup>1</sup> (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P \$1, R.1900, 66 p., P.64–65). In addition, the People's Home became an economic organization – a cooperative enterprise that provided financial support to Ukrainian civic organizations.

**Recent research and publications analysis.** On January 01, 2023, the Law of Ukraine «About the basic principles of state policy in the *sphere* of approval of the Ukrainian national and civil identity» (Law of Ukraine, 2022) came into force, which significantly contributed to the emergence of new academic studies devoted to this issue. For example, in the article «Ukrainian Identity in Time and Space: Historical Memory, Interpretation of the Past, and Modern Challenges of War», the authors analyzed the specifics of the formation of Ukrainian national identity across space and time, taking into account the aspect of preserving the historical memory of the people and the challenges of the current Russian-Ukrainian war (Telehuz I., Telehuz A., 2025). No less informative was the publication «Preservation of Ukraine's Historical and Cultural Heritage as a Factor of National Identity», dedicated to the analysis of certain aspects of the interaction between historical-cultural heritage and national identity (Taranhul L. M., Chernikova I. V., & Drohomiretska L. R., 2024).

In general, the history of the Ukrainian People's Home in Przemyśl has already been the subject of individual studies. Professor Stepan Zabovarnyi wrote the article «The 'People's Home' Society in Przemyśl», which became part of Issue 3 «Przemyśl and the Przemyśl Region through the Centuries» (Zabovarnyi, 2003). In 2019, a monograph by the same author appeared, in which he presented the civic and cultural activities in the Przemyśl People's Home, described in a chronicle-like format (Zabovarnyi, 2019). This remains the only and most comprehensive work on the activity of this institution to date.

It is also worth noting the dissertation by L. Levandovska, in which the author, in the context of highlighting the activities of Ukrainian cultural and educational associations in Przemyśl in 1867–1939, describes the work of the People's Home. She emphasizes that the Home served as the main platform for the speeches of artists, politicians, scholars, and public activists, and became a place of understanding between representatives of different ethnic groups (Levandovska, 2015).

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<sup>1</sup> Мовою оригіналу: «Храм(ом) воскресенія Руси-України, огнище(м) єї нової жизни, кріпость(ю) єї молодї волї, святиню(єю) єї безсмертного слова і пісні, щоб о могутні кличі єї борців, нетлінну красу єї слова, чарівні звуки єї пісні розбивались всі імлі і мраки антинародні, а сонце народної правди засіяло та силою своєю будило, кріпило і одушевляло до нових подвигів – жертв посвяти все грядуче покоління ньеньки Руси-України».

Some information about the history of the People's Home can also be found in the newspapers «Nashe Slovo» and «Nash Vybir» (Professor's Jubilee, 2009; Huk, 2011; Komar-Matsynska, 2019; Komar-Matsynska, 2020; Kravchuk, 2020; Loza, 2021; Kysloshchuk, 2022).

**The object of the article** is to study the process of establishment and the specific activities of the People's Home, and to emphasize its role as an influential factor in preserving the national identity of Ukrainians in the period from 1900 to 1940.

**Statement of basic materials.** The national and cultural revival in Przemyśl began in the second half of the 19th century, when a number of Ukrainian cultural, educational, artistic, and economic associations emerged in the city, which required their own premises. Thus, the idea of building a People's Home to meet these needs became timely.

The first community meeting regarding the «Statute» of the People's Home took place on December 20, 1899. Among other matters, a Committee was elected for the final editing of the document. The Committee included: H. Tsehlynskyi, Rev. I. Stryiskyi, A. Nehrebskyi, T. Kormosh, M. Dolynskyi, and O. Yarema. On December 25, 1899, a community meeting was held at which the statute, read aloud by Prof. O. Yarema, was adopted, and it was decided to convene the first general founding assembly (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 2, p. 1). Subsequently, on January 3, 1900, the founding assembly was held, at which the Statute of the Society was approved (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 1, 66 pages, pp. 1–24). Thus, the «People's Home» Society in Przemyśl was established — which became a strategic center of Ukrainian civic life in the city and a nucleus for the affirmation of Ukrainian national identity.

According to the adopted statute, developed in accordance with Austrian legislation, the goal of the limited liability «People's Home» Society was: «to increase the income and economic welfare of its members through the purchase and sale of real estate, the construction of houses, mediation in buying and selling, as well as the provision of loans to members». The Society's resources were to consist of: its own funds (the so-called main fund, which was its property), members' shares (the so-called share fund, which belonged to the members), deposits in the current account and loans and credits obtained by the Society. The main fund was formed from the entry fees, a portion of net profit (the size of the portion, not less than 10% of the profit, was determined by the general assembly), member dividends that were not withdrawn within 3 years, interest from its own capital, unpaid portions of shares and shares that became the Society's property through various entries and allocations for the Society's benefit (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 1, 66 pages, p. 5).

Members of the Society could be both individuals and legal entities who paid for shares. The number of votes at the general assemblies depended on the number of shares held. The principles of vote distribution in proportion to the paid-in shares were clearly defined in the Statute. (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 1, 66 p., P.10):

1 vote	1 share	50 kr.
2 votes	3 shares	150 kr.
3 votes	6 shares	300 kr.
4 votes	10 shares	500 kr.
5 votes	15 shares	750 kr.
6 votes	21 shares	1050 kr.
7 votes	28 shares	1400 kr.
8 votes	36 shares	1800 kr.
9 votes	45 shares	2250 kr.
10 votes	55 shares	2750 kr.

It was stipulated that no member of the Society could hold more than ten votes, even if they owned more than 55 shares. The minimum payment for one share, as of 1925, was 50 zlotys.

The number of Society members changed from year to year. The dynamics of membership changes can be traced based on data from the table compiled using archival materials from Fund 1086 «People's Home» Society in Przemyśl of the State Archive in Przemyśl (APP, Zesp. 1086).

Date (year)	Quantity of members
06.04.1900	46
06.05.1900	51
30.01.1901	57
04.10.1901	76
10.12.1901	80
21.05.1902	93
26.03.1903	107
24.09.1903	117
11.02.1904	129

29.03.1905	137
1906	141
23.09.1907	142
09.05.1909	134
18.03.1910	145
1912	119
14.06.1913	119
01.12.1921	125
01.12.1925	121
1928	61
1929	63
1930	60
05.02.1931	60
6.06.1932	61
22.09.1933	64
6.02.1934	63
27.03.1935	64
10.02.1936	70
16.04.1937	72
11.06.1938	82
22.02.1939	81
31.01.1940	85

On January 20, 1900, by a decree of the Przemyśl District Court, the People's Home was entered into the register of profit-economic associations (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 1, 66 p., p. 3). The activity of the association was based on the provisions of the Law of April 9, 1873, on profit and commercial associations (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 1, 66 p., p. 4). The People's Home was a cooperative in the form of a limited liability association, meaning that in the event of liquidation or bankruptcy, its members were liable only with their shares and not with their personal property. After its establishment, the People's Home Association set a goal to construct its own building, which would serve as a kind of refuge for the Ukrainian community of Przemyśl. An important role in this was played by Dr. Teofil Kormosh (Korenets, 1935).

To purchase the real estate, a loan of 30,000 crowns was obtained from the credit society «Vira» (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., p. 131) and from the «Dnister» society in Lviv (APP, Zesp. 579, Sygn. 2, p. 56). At that time, a property was purchased at 5 Kościuszko Street, and after its demolition, a grand two-story building was erected. From a Charter dated July 4, 1903, we learn that on that day the Cornerstone was laid, and blessed by the Bishop of the Przemyśl, Sambir, and Sian Dioceses of Rus', His Grace Bishop Konstiantyn Chekhovych, for the construction of the People's Home in Przemyśl (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 1, 66 p., p. 65).

The Construction Committee responsible for the project included: Dr. T. Kormosh, O. Yarema, H. Tsehlynskyi, Rev. O. Kormosh, Dr. M. Dolynskyi, I. Matkovskyi, and I. Lypetskyi. The technical management was carried out by Engineer Ivan Lempitskyi (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 1, 66 p., p. 65). The construction was completed in October 1904, and the formal blessing and opening took place on November 1, 1904. The building included a large theater hall, residential rooms, and utility facilities. These rooms were rented to various individuals and Ukrainian institutions. A significant asset was the spacious hall with a stage, where numerous theatrical performances were staged—introducing the audience to Ukrainian culture and shaping Ukrainian national identity. Among the many talented performers, the stage of the People's Home hosted Solomiia Krushelnytska, Mariia Zankovetska, Mykola Sadovskyi, Oleksandr Zaharov and others.

The emergence of the «People's Home» society contributed to the activation of public and cultural life in the region. The Ukrainian statesman, publicist, historian, and one of the most prominent political figures of Galicia at the end of the 19th and first half of the 20th century, Doctor of Science Kost Levytskyi, noted on this matter: «The year 1904 ended with a grand celebration of the Przemyśl Rus: the consecration of the «People's Home». The former deadness that prevailed in the princely city under the Russophile cover disappeared thanks to the efforts of a circle of ideological and energetic people, such as Director Hryhorii Tsehlynskyi, Dr. Teofil Kormosh, Prof. Oleksa Yarema and their colleagues, who excellently organized: the Ruthenian Institute for Girls in Przemyśl, and with the independent efforts of the Przemyśl organization erected the beautiful People's Home in Przemyśl. It

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should be acknowledged here that the Reverend Konstantyn Chekhovych of Przemyśl played an active role in the revival of Przemyśl Ukraine»<sup>1</sup> (Levytskyi, 1926, p. 401).

Already during 1904–1906, the audience at the People's Home stage saw, among others, the following performances: «Zaporozhets Beyond the Danube» by S. Hulak-Artemovskiy, «Sorochnyn Fair» by M. Starytskyi, «Natalka Poltavka» by I. Kotliarevskiy, the drama «Oh, Don't Go, Hryts, to the Evening Dances» by M. Starytskyi, and the opera «Kateryna» by M. Arkas (Zabrovarnyi, 2019, pp. 51–57). Such a repertoire played an extremely important role in strengthening national-patriotic education, especially for the younger generation.

A notable event took place on March 27, 1906, in the hall of the People's Home: for the first time, a concert was held to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko. In 1909, two more concerts were organized to mark the 95th anniversary of the birth of the Great Kobzar. The second concert-evening gathered a full audience and ended with the singing of the anthem «Ukraine Has Not Yet Perished» (Zabrovarnyi, 2019, pp. 65–66). In 1914, the centennial jubilee of Taras Hryhorovych was celebrated with Shevchenko concerts in the great hall of the People's Home. On March 10, 1921, the 60th anniversary of Shevchenko's death was honored with a concert where his «Testament» and a number of well-known compositions were performed (Zabrovarnyi, 2019, pp. 116–117). On March 18, 1924, another concert in honor of Taras Shevchenko was held. These celebrations became traditional and contributed to the patriotic upbringing of the population based on national identity.

The first statute of the People's Home society was partially amended on June 30, 1909 (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., p. 66) and on April 8, 1914 (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., p. 93) at meetings of its members. On December 27, 1922, the members adopted a new statute adapted to the requirements of the Polish Act on Cooperative Societies of October 29, 1920 (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., p. 107). Additional amendments to the statute were made by resolutions adopted at General Meetings on: May 9, 1925 (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., p. 126), May 4, 1927 (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., p. 138), October 27, 1934 (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 3, 176 p., p. 39), March 27, 1935 (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 3, 176 p., p. 51).

The governing bodies of the People's Home Society were: the Directorate (Zaryad), the Supervisory Board, and the General Assembly of Members. Since 1906, the cooperative was a member of the Cooperative Auditing Union known as the Kraiovyi Soiuz Reviziinyi in Lviv, which in the interwar period was renamed to the Ukrainian Auditing Union.

The Supervisory Board elected the Directorate, for a three-year term, composed of three directors and three deputies. The Directorate was approved by the General Assembly. The Directorate was led by a Chairman, another director served as cashier managing finances, and the third director was responsible for maintaining the Society's books Товариства (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 1, 66 p., P.11-13).

The Supervisory Board consisted of six members, elected by the General Assembly by majority vote for a three-year term. The Statute specified that members of the Directorate could not simultaneously be members of the Supervisory Board. Among its members, the Supervisory Board was to elect a Control Commission composed of two persons, which was to periodically audit the Directorate's record-keeping (books and cash of the Society) (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 1, 66 p., P.14-17).

The General Assembly was convened by the Supervisory Board once a year in March. The Statute provided for the convening of extraordinary General Assemblies at the request of the Directorate or Supervisory Board. A General Assembly decision was considered legitimate if at least 1/10 of the members were present (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 1, 66 p., P.17-20).

The first members of the Directorate were Oleksii Yarema, Rev. Omelian Kormosh and Klym Hlibovytskyi. Their deputies were elected: Ivan Manuliak, Osyp Maksymovych and Spyrydon Hubchak (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 1, 66 p., P.65). Dr. T. Kormosh handled the Society's legal matters, and O. Yarema handled financial and economic affairs. For 11 years, the Directorate of the «People's Home» worked on a voluntary basis, unpaid. At the Supervisory Board meeting on February 13, 1911, the matter of awarding compensation to its members was discussed. It was proposed that 1,400 crowns be allocated from the reserve of 3,000 crowns as follows: 500 crowns each for O. Yarema and

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<sup>1</sup> Мовою оригіналу: «Та сей рік 1904. закінчився величавим святом Перемиської Русі: посвяченнем «Народного Дому». Колишна мертвота, що панувала в княжім городі під руссофільським покровом, щезла завдяки діяльності гуртка ідейних і енергійних людей, як директор Григорій Цеглинський, д-р Теофіль Кормош, проф. Олекса Ярема і товариші, котрі знаменито уладили: Руський Інститут для дівчат в Перемишлі, та власними силами перемиської організації поставили гарний «Народний Дім» в Перемишлі. В сім місци належить признати, що у відродженню Перемиської України був діяльний перемиський єпископ о. Константин Чехович».

Rev. O. Kormosh, and 400 crowns for Dr. T. Kormosh, as administrator of the House. Dr. T. Kormosh agreed to accept only 200 crowns (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P \$1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., P.77).

According to the audit report conducted by the «Cooperative Auditing Union» in Lviv on October 29–30, 1907, all the business and accounting documentation of the People's Home were being kept correctly and on time. However, the report recommended finding new sources of funding so that the society could become self-reliant and independent залежати (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P \$1, Sygn. 5, 93 p., P. 7-8). The audit report of the People's Home, dated May 3, 1909, stated that the cooperative's activities were at a standstill (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P \$1, Sygn. 5, 93 p., P. 12).

An important national-significance event was the large public assembly (veche) for the establishment in Przemyśl of a people's school with Ukrainian as the language of instruction, which took place on July 10, 1910, in the hall of the People's Home. A large number of city residents supported the initiative to open a private people's school named after M. Shashkevych, with Ukrainian as the medium of instruction. On July 22, Dr. Volodymyr Zahaikivych, at another assembly of Ukrainians in Przemyśl at the People's Home, presented the concept of such a school, envisioning that its first class would open on September 1, 1910, and that one grade would be added each year. Thus, the Markiiian Shashkevych People's School was established in Przemyśl, which continues to serve as a place for affirming the national identity of Przemyśl Ukrainians to this day. (Zespół Szkół Ogólnokształcących nr 2 im. Markiana Szaszkewicza w Przemyślu).

On November 6, 1911, a concert dedicated to Markiiian Shashkevych was held in the large hall of the People's Home. On November 14, 1911, the second Shashkevych concert took place, where the audience was able to admire the singing of Solomiia Krushelnyska (Zabrovarnyi, 2019, p. 69).

The wartime period had a significant impact on the financial situation of the People's Home. The theater hall was given free of charge for the needs of the Red Cross (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P \$1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., P.96). The Ukrainian Society for Assistance to the Disabled used it until 1925 inclusive. According to the protocol of the General Assembly of the People's Home dated June 14, 1921, during which the Financial Report for the years 1917–1920 was presented by O. Yarema, it is known that in 1920, the war losses of previous years were covered and the society received a small profit of 1,688 Polish marks 12 sr. (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P \$1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., P.100). In 1923, the society's net profit exceeded 1,898 Polish marks. By 1924, the Directorate of the People's Home had repaid all pre-war debts, which was announced by O. Kormosh at the meeting of the Supervisory Board on April 15, 1924 (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P \$1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., P.112).

Already from 1919, the cultural and educational activities at the People's Home began to gradually resume. In September, the audience was able to see performances of the «Ukrainian Talk» theater: «Zaporozhets beyond the Danube,» «Oh, Don't Go, Hryts, to the Evening Dances» «Natalka Poltavka,» and many others. Starting from June 1921, the reading room of «Prosvita» resumed its activity in the premises of the People's Home, as evidenced by the protocols of its meetings (Personal Archive of the Ukrainian People's Home). On June 15, 1921, a concert was held dedicated to the fifth anniversary of the death of Ivan Franko. The renowned writer and public figure was honored again with a concert in June 1926.

In 1925, the struggle for Ukrainian education continued. Several educational assemblies were held at the People's Home, protesting against the unification with Polish schools and against the project of the Utraquization of the Ukrainian gymnasium. In January 1926, another assembly discussed political issues, above all the need to create a political organization of Ukrainians that would represent the interests of Ukrainians in Poland. On April 11, 1926, an assembly was held at the People's Home, where, among others, the head of the Ukrainian National Democratic Union (UNDO), Dmytro Levytskyi, gave a speech. The need for national unity for internal strengthening was voiced in the speeches. And on April 10, 1927, the second UNDO assembly was held at the People's Home (Zabrovarnyi, 2019, pp. 133–134; 140).

The speech of Rev. Oleksandr Zubrytskyi at the General Assembly on May 27, 1926, marked the 25-year history of the People's Home, «in which 'one's own truth and freedom' must be manifested!» A. Zubrytskyi emphasized in his opening address: «...To emphasize the importance of this institution of ours for the good and glory of dear mother Ukraine today, I consider excessive, for all of us present here feel this importance with inner pride!...»<sup>1</sup> (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P \$1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., P.131–132).

On June 25, 1926, in the large hall of the People's Home, a memorial service was held to honor the memory of Symon Petliura (Zabrovarnyi, 2019, p. 153).

In the Report of the Audit Union of Ukrainian Cooperatives dated February 20, 1931, sent to the head of the Supervisory Board of the People's Home, Rev. A. Zubrytskyi, the commission pointed out that the «cooperative» had for several years deviated from its statutory activities. Accordingly, the

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<sup>1</sup> Мовою оригіналу: «...Вагу цієї нашої інституції для добра і слави неньки України днесь підносити вважаю за рiч злишну, бо всі ми тут присутні цю вагу відчуваємо з внутрішньою гордістю!...».

.....  
Audit Commission advised either to carry out its activities as a credit «cooperative» or to amend the statute in accordance with the actual subject of its activity (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 5, 93 p., P. 37).

At the turn of the 1920s–1930s, the People's Home Society in Przemyśl began a new period of its activity. The founders of the People's Home had passed away: in 1927, Dr. T. Kormosh died (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., P.142), in 1930 - O. Yarema (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., P.160). In 1932, Rev. Oleksandr Zubrytskyi, who had been a permanent member of the Supervisory Board of the People's Home and a member of several societies in Przemyśl, passed away (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., P.184–185). In 1933, Spyrydon Hubchak, one of the first members of the Directorate, also passed away (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 3, 176 p., P.7). All these historical figures became part of the Ukrainian national and cultural-educational revival of the western borderlands of Ukraine.

From 1929 to 1933, another economic crisis and deep recession once again shook the entire world. Many Ukrainian societies found themselves in a difficult financial situation. Among them was the District Union of Cooperatives in Przemyśl, which owed the People's Home Society 4,619.24 zlotys. At the General Assembly on January 20, 1932, it was decided to write off this amount as an expense. In 1931, the People's Home Society consisted of 61 members with 119 shares; the society's profit amounted to 867.35 zlotys (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., P.190). In 1934, the society's net income was 995.24 zlotys, with 64 members holding 81 shares (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 3, 176 p., P. 48).

On January 22, 1932, the anniversary of the proclamation of independence and unity of the Ukrainian state in 1919 was celebrated in the hall of the People's Home. A similar ceremonial academy was held in 1933. On March 17, 1932, another Shevchenko evening was held (Zabrovarnyi, 2019, pp. 194–195). On March 11, 1933, in keeping with tradition, an evening in memory of Taras Shevchenko took place, which featured deep patriotic themes (Przemyśl Chronicle Notes, 1932, No. 11, p. 3).

At the General Assembly of the Society on May 20, 1933, it was decided to expand the society's activity and renew the composition of its governing bodies (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 3, 176 p., P.3). The Supervisory Board was headed by Rev. Mykhailo Komarnytskyi, who performed this function until the Second World War. His deputy was elected to be Izydor Bilynskyi (director of the «Ukrainian Savings Institution» in Przemyśl), and from 1935 – Mykhailo Kebuzynskyi. The secretary became Dr. Ivan Mandiuk. The administration consisted of a manager (executive director), which until the beginning of the war was Bohdan Shekhovych, the treasurer – Rev. O. Kormosh, and from 1935 – Ivan Hontarskyi; and the accountant – Theodor Hoza, followed by Mykhailo Pashchak, and from 1935 – Osyp Senechko. At this assembly, information was presented about the funding by the People's Home of Ukrainian cultural societies in Przemyśl in the amount of 4,639.11 zlotys (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 3, 176 p., P.41).

In November 1933, another national-cultural event took place at the People's Home, namely the commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the November Uprising of 1918. After a requiem service at the cathedral, a November academy was held in the large hall of the People's Home, where three short reports-memories about the military actions were presented, and poems were recited (November Anniversaries, 1933, No. 43, p. 3). A similar ceremonial evening took place in November 1936. At the beginning of the event, the song «Hey in the meadow the red viburnum...» was performed on the People's Home stage; at the conclusion, the attendees were once again inspired by the patriotic spirit through the choir's performance of the national anthem «Ukraine Has Not Yet Perished» (November Anniversaries, 1936, No. 42, p. 3).

At the meeting of the Supervisory Board and Directorate on July 13, 1934, an appeal was read from the organizational committee of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen signed by V. Zahaikevych and S. Navrotskyi, requesting to commemorate the USC in the Society's building. In response, it was decided that in the first days of September 1934 a memorial plaque would be installed in the large hall of the People's Home on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the organization of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 3, 176 s., p. 31).

At the Extraordinary General Assembly of the People's Home Society, held on October 27, 1934, the issue of changing the society's name was discussed. It was proposed to add the word «Ukrainian» to the name. In particular, M. Pashchak emphasized: «The title of the statute should read as follows: 'Statute of the Ukrainian House named after Dr. Teofil Kormosh, a cooperative with limited liability in Przemyśl'» (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 3, 176 p., p. 37). After a heated discussion and voting among members, the proposal was rejected. A similar issue was raised at the General Assembly on February 1, 1938, by Prof. M. Demchuk (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 3, 176 p., p. 162).

The audit report of the cooperative People's Home Society for April 12–16, 1937, stated that the credit activity of the society was minimal, the administration of the house was costly, there were few

members, and the shares did not cover the book value of the property. The document lists a number of other remarks in accordance with the provisions of the Statute (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 5, 93 p., pp. 69–79).

In the second half of the 1930s, the People's Home building provided premises to many Ukrainian public organizations, including such as: «Mishchanska Kasa», «Narodnyi Bazar», «Dostava», «Ukrainian Savings Institution», the District Union of Ukrainian Cooperatives, the Ukrainian Drama Society named after Lesia Ukrainka, the Petro Mohyla Library, the Statement Society named after Petro Mohyla, the «Prosvita» Society Reading Room, the «Zorya» Craft Society, the «Supruga» Society, the Ukrainian Society for Assistance to the Disabled (UKTODI), «Ukrainian Besida», and others. They organized various cultural and educational events. Preserved posters, announcements, and reviews testify that prominent public figures, artists, artistic groups, and theaters performed in the theater hall. Part of the premises was rented by private individuals for a fee (Przemyśl and Przemyśl Region, Issue 3, 2003, p. 35). For example, on February 16, 1936, a tombola took place in the People's Home with a performance by an orchestra from Ostrov. All proceeds from the event, as reported by the newspaper «Ukrainian Beskid» were donated for the completion of the construction of the Zasińska church (Concert, 1936, No. 4 (319), P. 4).

Traditionally, on March 15, 1936, a Shevchenko concert was held in the hall of the People's Home. A report on the life of the great poet was presented on the stage, and his poems were recited (Concert, 1936, No. 12, P. 5).

On December 6, 1936, the branch of the «Prosvita» society in Przemyśl organized the celebration of the county «Prosvita» Day. In the concert hall of the People's Home, choirs from reading rooms of Vovcha, Ruske Selo and Virochok performed, with the choir of the reading room from Medyka and the brass band of the Przemyśl reading room as the highlights of the concert. Afterward, the speech of the branch chairman M. Khrobak was heard (County Prosvita Day, 1936). Overall, the concert program was filled with Ukrainian national spirit, and although there were few representatives of the Ukrainian intelligentsia from Przemyśl at the concert, a large audience from the whole county gathered. Such events united Ukrainians of the city and Przemyśl county, awakening in them love for Ukrainian song, dance, and word. The cultural and educational activity of «Prosvita» formed a conscious Ukrainian public that felt its uniqueness and national identity.

In 1938, the Przemyśl branch of the Ukrainian Scientific Lectures Society named after Petro Mohyla was located in the People's Home building at 5 Kostiuszko Street, where the Society's library was also located. There one could find various books and periodicals. On May 1, 1939, by the decision of the Directorate, the People's Home Society became a founding member of the Petro Mohyla Society's library (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 3, 176 p., P. 153).

Auxiliary financial activity occupied an important place in the work of the society. This is evidenced by the distribution of profit for the years 1936 and 1937. From the profit of 1576.40 zlotys for 1936, 1153.11 zlotys were allocated for charitable purposes (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 6, 126 p., p.3-32). The profit for 1937 amounted to 1162.79 zlotys, and the same amount of money as in 1936 was allocated for charitable purposes (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 6, 126 p., P.32-63).

In March 1939, in the large hall of the People's House, two concerts dedicated to Taras Shevchenko took place. The first concert was mostly organized by the «Prosvita» Reading Rooms Branch (Personal Archive of the Ukrainian People's House, p.43), the second – by the society «Przemyśl Boyan» (Zabrovarny, 2019, P.249).

The financial condition of the «People's House» Society at the end of 1939 was as follows: own capital amounted to 31,293.47 zlotys, including: statutory fund – 5242.74 zlotys, reserve fund – 17,140.56 zlotys, other funds – 8910.17 zlotys (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 6, 126 p., P.84).

During the Soviet occupation of Przemyśl on November 23, 1939, the Soviet border service (guard) moved into the premises of the «People's House» society at Kostiuszko Street 5. On that day, a Soviet officer appeared with three militiamen. After opening the large hall, an order was immediately given to remove from the wall the memorial plaque of the Ukrainian Galician Army (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 3, 176 p., P.154).

The office of the People's House, together with some inventory, was transferred to the building of the «Ukrainian Savings» bank at Vodna Street, 2. The painting «Leaders of the People's House» and 8 paintings (cooperative activists) were handed over to the local museum «Stryhovir» (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 3, 176 p., P.155). Here the society continued its activities, limited to providing loans and collecting savings, until March 15, 1940. On that day, it was liquidated, and its assets and liabilities were transferred to the Soviet branch of the USSR State Bank in Przemyśl (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 7, 57 p., P.39-44). The inventory of movable property of the People's House was transferred to the USSR State Bank in Przemyśl on February 7, 1940 (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 2, 198 p., p.62), and on March 20, 1940, to the Border Guard Department and the Central Savings Bank (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 7, 57 p., P.46). On November 25, 1940, the building of the Ukrainian House was completely occupied by the Border Guard Department (APP, Zesp. 1086,

AP P Ś1, Sygn. 7, 57 p., p.53). According to the Act dated March 25, 1940, the «People's House» society, a cooperative with limited liability in Przemyśl, transfers to the USSR State Bank, Przemyśl branch, the parcel and the built two-story (3-story) brick house at Bandurskyi Street No. 5 in Przemyśl, with a balance value of (sixty-five thousand one hundred forty 100 karbovanets) (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 7, 57 p., P.55).

During its years of activity, the «People's House» Society was a member of the Audit Union of Ukrainian Cooperatives since 1906, the District Union since 1925, the Central Bank since 1925, «Sil'skyi Hospodar» since 1934, Prosvita since 1931, «Vira», «Dnister», People's Market, «Zoloty Kolos». On May 10, 1923, the «People's House» Society in Przemyśl was entered into the membership book of the «Ruska Shchadnytsia» in Przemyśl based on the decision of the General Meeting dated April 20, 1923 (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 9, 1 p., P.1).

The last preserved document in the archive is an invitation to the General Meeting of its members, which was to take place on November 26, 1944 (APP, Zesp. 1086, AP P Ś1, Sygn. 11, 1 p., P.1).

**Conclusions.** Thus, as the founders of the «People's House» in Przemyśl aspired, for many years it was a true hearth of new national-cultural life, a sanctuary of the immortal Ukrainian word and song. It hosted landmark events of the cultural and educational life of Ukrainians of Przemyśl and all of Galicia: lectures, concerts, theatrical performances were held; commemorative days for T. Shevchenko, I. Franko, M. Shashkevych, and others were organized.

The «People's House» served as the main platform for speeches by artists, politicians, scholars and community activists. In a complex interaction involving contradictions, conflicts, misunderstandings, and compromises on political, national, and religious grounds, in cooperation and opposition, Ukrainians desperately created their culture and education. The examples presented show that even under difficult historical conditions, education and culture remained important priorities for Ukrainians, contributing to the preservation of national consciousness.

The People's House, fulfilling the role of a cultural and public center, simultaneously carried out important educational, and sometimes even formative, functions, fostering in compatriots a sense of national unity. Its founders desperately nurtured the Ukrainian language, historical memory, traditions, and values, which enabled them to maintain a connection with their native culture and ensure the continuous formation of national consciousness.

**Acknowledgment.** We express sincere gratitude to the Head of the Ukrainian People's House in Przemyśl, Ihor Horkov, the staff of the State Archive in Przemyśl, and the members of the editorial board of the journal for the consultations provided during the preparation of the article for publication.

**Funding.** The authors did not receive financial support for the research, authorship or publication of this article.

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